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MEETING FOR BUSINESS, AND ANNUAL MEETING.

DECEMBER 27, 1842.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

The Annual Reports of the Librarian, of the Treasurer, and of the Publication Committee having been read and adopted, the following Report was presented on behalf of the Botanical Committee and adopted, and ordered to be published in the Proceedings.

The Botanical Committee having, during the present year, completed the arrangement of the extensive and valuable collection of Plants, presented in 1839, by Dr. F. Menké, of Pymont, Germany, beg leave to make the following statement, forming the principal portion of their Report, due at this season.

The apparent neglect and delay in the arrangement of this collection on the part of the Committee, may be accounted for by the fact, that at the period of its presentation, preparations were in progress for the erection of the new Hall, and that after the removal of the Museum to the latter, a large portion of the time and attention of the Committee were required, in common with the other members of the Academy, for the disposal and arrangement of its collections in the other departments.

During this period the plants had not been removed from the boxes in which they had been originally sent by Dr. Menké. On examination they were found to be very carefully and closely packed, and to have sustained no injury from dampness, and but comparatively few specimens to have been destroyed by insects. The whole collection had been arranged after the Linnean or artificial system; the plants distributed into fasciculi and labelled accordingly. About two-thirds were well selected and characteristic specimens, in good paper, with labels containing the name with the authority for it, the synonyme, the locality, date of collection, and frequently the name of a donor. The remainder were enclosed in coarse brown paper, without order or arrangement, and although in most cases properly labelled, in many close comparison and study were necessary, in order to determine even the generic character. The localities were chiefly Pymont, Brunswick, Bremen, Arolsen, Monspelier and Gottingen. From the celebrated botanical garden in the vicinity of this latter, very many species had been derived. Specimens were occasionally met with from France, the West Indies, Hungary, &c.

The greater part of this collection had been made between the years 1810 and 1815.

Among the names of donors were many distinguished in Botanical Science, as Thunberg, Sprengel, Bernhardt, Prof. Treviranus, Prof. Mertens, Ræmer, Goehnat, Lehmann, Salzmann, Rohde, Wendland, Meyer, Shroder, Ehrenberg, Schmidt, &c

By a reference to the new catalogue, it will be seen that a large proportion of the genera (and most probably of the species) contained in this collection were already possessed by the Academy. On this account, therefore, and as the number of cultivated specimens was large, the Committee deemed it unadvisable to incorporate it with the Herbarium of the Academy, but concluded upon keeping it entirely distinct, adopting, however, a similar plan of arrangement as in the Herbarium of the Academy, viz., combining, as far as possible, the Linnean or Artificial with the Natural System.

To accomplish this duty occupied the time and attention of the Committee for several months. The best and most characteristic specimens were selected, transferred to paper of uniform size and color, with the generic name attached to the left hand upper corner of the sheet; the genera being arranged in their appropriate natural orders, commencing with those latter which contained the largest proportion of genera belonging to the first Linnean class, and so on proceeding to the last—this being the plan of the Herbarium of the Academy alluded to above.

As thus completed, the collection comprises 1298 genera including upwards of 7000 species. Of these, 5623 species are Phænogamous, included in about 130 natural orders; and 1272 species are Cryptogamous. Of the latter, the Ferns embrace 132 species; Equisetum, Lycopodium, and the Marsileaceæ, 29 species; Hepaticæ 65 species; Musci 309 species; Algæ 122 species; Lichines 152 species; and Fungi 445 species. To these are to be added 18 species of Corallia, and a number of plants to which neither the generic nor specific name was attached.

The whole has been distributed into thirty-seven folio volumes of large size, occupying an entire case six and a half feet high, four feet wide, and twenty-one inches in depth.

The duplicates are very numerous, and will answer for exchanges.

The new catalogue, alluded to above, has been found necessary, on account of there now being two separate collections, the previous catalogue referring but to one. It is furnished with a double column of reference, so that a genus contained in both collections can be very readily found.

A number of donations, some of which are of much value, have been received by the Academy during the year. These have been already noticed in the published Proceedings at the time of presentation.

The chief donors have been our fellow members P. A. Browne, Esq., and Mr. R. C. Taylor; Dr. George Engleman, of St. Louis, Missouri, and Prof. Short, of Louisville, Kentucky.

The duty of incorporating these donations with the Herbarium has been necessarily deferred until next year.

On behalf of the Committee,

WM. S. ZANTZINGER,
ROBERT BRIDGES,
GAVIN WATSON.

Hall of the Academy, December 27, 1842.

NEW BUSINESS.

Dr. Morton, by permission of the Society, offered the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of this Society be tendered to Mr. George W. Carpenter, Treasurer of the Academy, for his zealous and successful discharge of the duties of his office during the sixteen years of his incumbency.

The Society then proceeded to an election for Officers, to serve for the ensuing year.

The following result was announced by the tellers :

PRESIDENT.

WILLIAM HEMBEL.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

JOHN PRICE WETHERILL,
SAMUEL GEORGE MORTON, M. D.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

WALTER R. JOHNSON, A. M.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

WM. S. ZANTZINGER, M. D.

TREASURER.

GEORGE W. CARPENTER.

LIBRARIAN.

ALFRED L. ELWYN, M. D.

CURATORS.

WILLIAM S. VAUX,
JOHN S. PHILLIPS,
SAMUEL ASHMEAD,
JOHN CASSIN.

AUDITORS.

WILLIAM S. VAUX,
ROBERT PEARSALL,
WM. S. ZANTZINGER, M. D.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

ALFRED L. ELWYN, M. D.
EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.,
WM. S. ZANTZINGER, M. D.,
WILLIAM S. VAUX,
JOHN S. PHILLIPS.

The balloting for Members and Correspondents then took place, when the following gentlemen were declared duly elected :

CORRESPONDENTS.

Redmond Conyngham, Esq., of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

Prof. F. A. Pouchet, of Rouen, France.

Henry Denny, Esq., of Leeds, Yorkshire, England.

Dr. Norwood, of Madison, Indiana.

MEMBER.

Willard M. Rice, of Philadelphia.